



QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL



SUM GALLERY

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Trauma Clown—a visual art show by multidisciplinary artist [Vivek Shraya](#) at [SUM gallery](#), **OPENS IN TWO WEEKS!**

For Immediate Release

Vancouver B.C., March 18, 2021 | **SUM gallery hosts Vivek Shraya's *Trauma Clown* in its Vancouver debut.** Private appointments to view the exhibition on the opening days of April 1st and April 2nd, 2021, are [now available](#). The exclusive Artist Talk will stream on Zoom April 3rd, 2021, at 3pm PST. [RSVP now](#) to receive link access on the day of the event.

In her **first solo Visual art show in Vancouver**, Shraya's *Trauma Clown* examines the life of a trans woman of colour on the rise. Motivated by the contemporary fascination with suffering and punctuated by satire, Shraya uses herself as the titular "trauma clown"—an entertainer whose growing success comes at the expense of performing her pain for an insatiable audience.

The exhibition runs at SUM gallery from April 1st to July 1st, 2021. Appointments to visit the gallery during open hours of Tuesday to Saturday, 12 to 6pm, can be made via our [online booking site](#).

This exhibition is part of the [2021 Capture Photography Festival Events Program](#). The Artist Talk is co-presented by [RelIssue.pub](#).

SUM gallery is closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and acting accordingly by implementing precautions aligned with public health advisories. At this time, reservations are required to visit the gallery. We acknowledge that exhibition details may change at any time to reflect provincial health recommendations. Please refer to our website [sumgallery.ca](#) for the most up to date information on Trauma Clown and future exhibitions.

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For more information and interview requests, please contact: Tanya Comisso,
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Artist Bio

Vivek Shraya is an author, musician, visual artist, performer and six-time Lambda Literary Award Finalist. Her visual art practice includes the internationally acclaimed photo series *Trisha*, featured in *Vanity Fair*, *Village Voice* and *India Today*, and in solo exhibits in New York City and the Southern Alberta Art Gallery. *Trauma Clown* was featured on the cover of *Now Magazine* and in the Patel Gallery. vivekshraya.com is a digital archive for a living trans artist of colour, featuring her music, writing, visual art, theatrical and film works, from 2002 to present. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Calgary.

Curator bio

SD Holman is an award winning artist and curator whose work has toured internationally. A 1990 ECUAD graduate, Holman was picked up by the Vancouver Association for Non-commercial Culture (the NON) right out of art school. Holman was appointed Artistic Director of the Pride in Art Society in 2008, and spearheaded the founding of the Queer Arts Festival, now recognized among the top 3 of its kind worldwide, and SUM gallery. Holman has programmed the likes of Kent Monkman, Cris Derksen, Jeremy Dutcher, Paul Wong, Angela Grossman and Jonathan D. Katz. Curatorial highlights include: *TRIGGER*, the 25th anniversary exhibition for Kiss & Tell's notorious *Drawing the Line* project, Adrian Stimson's *Naked Napi* solo show, and Paul Wong's monumental, multi-curator *Through the Trapdoor* underground storage locker exhibition.

About SUM gallery (sumgallery.ca)

SUM gallery is the year-round programming arm of the Queer Arts Festival and Canada's only queer mandated visual art gallery and one of only a few worldwide. SUM produces, presents and exhibits with a curatorial vision favouring challenging, thought-provoking contemporary art that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. SUM brings diverse communities together to support artistic risk-taking, incite creative collaboration and experimentation and celebrate the rich heritage of queer artists and queer art.